



*Utah residents' quality of life relies on the active management and protection of diverse natural resources. The **From the Field** newsletter by the Department of Natural Resources provides a snapshot of current department initiatives, developments and trends impacting Utah.*

## New Great Salt Lake website now live



The Utah Department of Natural Resources recently teamed up with the Department of Environmental Quality to create a website that centralizes the organization, tools and work that contribute to Great Salt Lake's management. The site —

[greatsaltlake.utah.gov](https://greatsaltlake.utah.gov) — is brimming with useful information, so check it out.

[Read more >>](#)

## Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation launches new off-highway vehicle education course



The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation launched a new off-highway vehicle education course to help preserve access and increase rider safety. Anyone 18 years or older must now complete the free online course to operate an OHV on public lands in Utah.

The education course takes less than 30 minutes to complete, and the certification will remain valid for a user's lifetime.

[Read more >>](#)

## Utah to receive \$3.2 million in federal funds for Great Salt Lake Basin Study



The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that it will provide \$3,174,000 through the WaterSMART Program to partner with the Utah Division of Water Resources, water managers and water users throughout the Great Salt Lake Basin to complete the Great Salt Lake Integrated Basin Plan. The partnership will add to state funds that the division received from H.B. 429 in 2022 to complete a comprehensive assessment of water resources in the entire GSL Basin.

The Great Salt Lake Integrated Basin Plan will combine and enhance existing water resource management tools from across the basin to complete a state-of-the-art, comprehensive water supply and demand study. It will collaboratively explore options to address water supply imbalances, increase supply reliability and avoid environmental disasters. Finally, it will complete a trade-off analysis of strategies within each river basin and GSL to assess the costs and benefits of meeting different water resource related goals.

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## DWR, UDOT release new app to allow public to report roadkill



The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Utah Department of Transportation are working to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions by building wildlife crossing structures on roads across Utah. But because these collisions unfortunately still occur from time to time, the agencies are making it easier for people to provide information about dead animals on Utah roads through the release of a new app: the Utah Roadkill Reporter.

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## number of proposed determinations



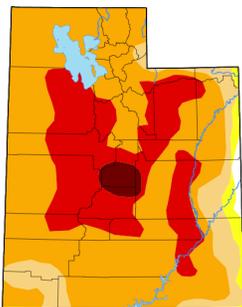
The 125th anniversary of the Office of the State Engineer wasn't the only reason the Division of Water Rights had to celebrate in 2022. Several notable accomplishments were achieved through the diligent work of the professional staff at the agency

including the signing of the Conformed Agreement for the Navajo Utah Federal Reserved Water Rights Settlement and the installation of several new measuring devices and associated telemetry equipment on river systems that are tributary to the Great Salt Lake to help fill data gaps about the rivers and streams that feed the lake. For the adjudication section of the division, the filing of their eighth proposed determination, a record number, came just days before the end of the year.

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## Utah drought update



Data valid as of Jan. 3 shows the area of 'Extreme Drought' in Utah is shrinking. However, most of the state is still in at least 'Severe Drought.' Snowpack peaks around the first of April, so we're hoping for consistent storms to reverse the shrinking trends on our lakes and reservoirs.

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## Utah Geological Survey leading new study of critical mineral resources in Utah's West Desert



The Utah Geological Survey has been awarded a federal grant for critical minerals research on the unique West Desert deposit in western Juab County. Utah is the only established resource of indium in the United States. Indium, in the form of indium tin oxide,

is an essential material used to create touchscreens on a range of consumer devices, such as smartphones and display panels, and for other industrial applications, such as windshields and solar panels.

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## Big changes coming to some Utah state parks



The extensive remodel at Echo State Park is nearing its completion. The new entrance, boat ramp, day-use area, and unique overnight lodging experience is expected to be revealed this coming season! Work continues at other parks as well; including Lost Creek, Deer Creek, Utahraptor, Wasatch Mountain and many more.

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